

Observations of Comet a 1886 (Brooks), made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

(Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.)

The observations were made with the East or Sheepshanks Equatorial, aperture 6·7 inches, by taking transits over two cross-wires at right angles to each other, and each inclined 45° to the parallel of Declination.

Comet a 1886.

Greenwich Mean Solar Time.	Observer.	Corr. for Par. and Refract. in R.A.	R.A.	Corr. for Par. and Refract. in N.P.D.	No. of Comp.	Apparent R.A.		Apparent N.P.D.	Comp. Star.
						h	m s		
1886. May 20	H.	+0·21	8·37	-18·8	3	2 43	53·30	45 12 29·2	a
		+0·08	36·37	-12·5	3	2 44	5·62	45 13 6·7	b
		+2 22·30		-6·1	2	2 44	8·58	45 13 49·9	c

Mean Places of Comparison Stars.

Star's Name.	R.A. 1886·0.		N.P.D. 1886·0.		Authority.
	h	m s	°	' "	
(a) W.B. (2) II. 1016	2 44	1·74	45	24 44·9	Weisse's Bessel (2)
(b) Lalande 5203	2 43	29·45	45	18 9·2	Lalande
(c) W.B. (2) II. 961	2 41	46·54	45	12 52·0	Weisse's Bessel (2)

The observations are corrected for parallax and refraction. The initial H. is that of Mr. Hollis.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich:  
1886, June 9.

*Note with respect to the Invention of the Achromatic Telescope.*  
By A. C. Ranyard.

At a recent meeting of the Astronomical Society I mentioned that there was no account to be found in the Law Reports of the time of the action brought in 1766 by Peter Dollond, the son of John Dollond, against Champness, an optician in Cornhill, for infringing John Dollond's patent for making achromatic telescopes. The importance of any contemporary reference to this action arises from the fact that Champness, in his defence, proved to the satisfaction of Lord Mansfield that achromatic telescopes had been made by Mr. Moor Hall in 1733, that is, twenty-five years previously to the date of John Dollond's patent. It is known\* that evidence was given by workmen who had been employed by Mr. Moor Hall to make achromatic lenses for him, but it is not known whether the workmen actually came into Court and were cross-examined, or whether their evidence was given by affidavit.

Mr. C. T. Martin saw a report of the discussion at the Astronomical Society's meeting, and wrote to suggest to me that I should search the Common Law Judgment Rolls preserved in the Record Office. I was under the impression that the action had been tried in the Court of King's Bench; for we know from subsequent references to the case that it was tried before Lord Mansfield, who was Chief Justice of the King's Bench, from the date of his appointment in November 1756 on till 1788. There is in the library of the Record Office a complete index of the actions tried during this period in the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas. I therefore searched the index of cases in the King's Bench for the names Dollond and Champness, but with no success, and I was about to give up the search, when the librarian suggested to me that Lord Mansfield might have sat to relieve a judge in another Court, and he suggested that I should search the index of cases in the Court of Common Pleas. There I found in the list of actions tried in the Easter Term of the seventh year of George III. the entry:—

*James Champness*, late of London, optician, to answer Peter Dollond, administrator of John Dollond. Damages £204.  
H. 6 Geo. III. 626 Middx.

The latter figures refer to the record of Judgments. On sending for the Judgment Roll for the Easter Term of 7th Geo. III. I found that Judgments numbered 622 to 627 were missing, and on searching through the file of affidavits made in the Common Pleas in Easter Term of 7th Geo. III. I was

\* For references with respect to this evidence see *Astronomical Register* for 1881, pp. 196, 197.